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Ser. No. 10/060,588

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add new claims 6 to 33 as follows:

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--6. A biodegradable polymer composition comprising a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger.

7. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 6, wherein a drop in average molecular weight of said composition subsequent to subjecting said composition to heat treatment or radiation sterilization is not greater than 30% of an average molecular weight of said composition prior to heat treatment or radiation sterilization.

8. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 6, wherein a drop in average molecular weight of said composition subsequent to subjecting said composition to heat treatment or radiation sterilization is not greater than 30% of an average molecular weight of said composition prior to heat treatment and radiation sterilization.

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9. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 6, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of natural and synthetic polymers.

10. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 6, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of collagen, cellulose, starch, hyaluronic acid, chitin, chitosan, gelatin, albumin, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydioxanan, polyamino acid, polycaprolactone, copolymer of lactic and glycolic acid, copolymer of lactic acid and caprolactone, copolymer of glycolic acid and caprolactone, and polyhydroxybutylate.

11. The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 6, wherein said free radical scavenger is selected from the group consisting of oxidation resisting enzymes and vitamins.

12. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 6, wherein said free radical scavenger is triarylisociamulate.

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13. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 11, wherein said oxidation resisting enzyme is selected from the group consisting of polyphenols, tannic acids and gallic acids.

14. The biodegradable composition according to Claim 11, wherein said vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E and vitamin C.

15. The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 6, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 10 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

16. The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 6, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 2 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.


17. The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 6, wherein said biodegradable polymer composition is formed as a complex in an inorganic compound.

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18. The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 17, wherein said inorganic compound is selected from the group consisting of apatite, zeolite or titanium oxide.

19. A method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition comprising mixing a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger and subjecting said mixture to heat treatment or radiation sterilization.

 20. A method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition comprising mixing a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger and subjecting said mixture to heat treatment and radiation sterilization.

21. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein said free radical scavenger is premixed in a solvent.

22. The method for producing a biodegradable composition according to Claim 19, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of natural and synthetic polymers.

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23. The method for producing a biodegradable composition according to Claim 19, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of collagen, cellulose, starch, hyaluronic acid, chitin, chitosan, gelatin, albumin, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydioxanan, polyamino acid, polycaprolactone, copolymer of lactic and glycolic acid, copolymer of lactic acid and caprolactone, copolymer of glycolic acid and caprolactone, and polyhydroxybutylate.

24. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein said free radical scavenger is selected from the group consisting of oxidation resisting enzymes and vitamins.

25. The method for producing a biodegradable composition according to Claim 19, wherein said free radical scavenger is triarylisocyanulate.

26. The method for producing a biodegradable composition according to Claim 24, wherein said oxidation resisting enzyme is selected from the group consisting of polyphenols, tannic acids and gallic acids.

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27. The method for producing a biodegradable composition according to Claim 24, wherein said vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E and vitamin C.

28. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 10 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

29. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 2 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

30. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 19, wherein said biodegradable polymer composition is formed as a complex in an inorganic compound.

31. The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 30, wherein said inorganic compound is selected from the group consisting of apatite, zeolite or titanium oxide.